

Scheduling Repeated Jobs with Cron

What You Will Learn

- Cron service
- Crontab format
- Crontab command

Cron

- `cron` - A time based job scheduling service.
- `crontab` - A program to create, read, update, and delete your job schedules.
- Use `cron` to schedule and automate tasks.

Crontab Format

* * * * * command

| | | | |

| | | | +-- Day of the Week (0-6)

| | | +---- Month of the Year (1-12)

| | +----- Day of the Month (1-31)

| +----- Hour (0-23)

+----- Minute (0-59)

Example Crontab Entry

```
# Run every Monday at 07:00.
```

```
0 7 * * 1 /opt/sales/bin/weekly-report
```

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| | | +---- Month of the Year    (1-12)  
| | +----- Day of the Month    (1-31)  
| +----- Hour                  (0-23)  
+----- Minute                  (0-59)
```

Redirecting Output

```
# Run at 02:00 every day and
```

```
# send output to a log file.
```

```
0 2 * * * /root/backupdb > /tmp/db.log 2>&1
```

Example Crontab Entries

Run every 30 minutes.

```
0,30 * * * * /opt/acme/bin/half-hour-check
```

Another way to do the same thing.

```
*/2 * * * * /opt/acme/bin/half-hour-check
```

Run for the first 5 minutes of the hour

```
0-4 * * * * /opt/acme/bin/first-five-mins
```


Crontab Shortcuts

@yearly	0	0	1	1	*
@annually	0	0	1	1	*
@monthly	0	0	1	*	*
@weekly	0	0	*	*	0
@daily	0	0	*	*	*
@midnight	0	0	*	*	*
@hourly	0	*	*	*	*

Using the Crontab Command

<code>crontab file</code>	Install a new crontab from file.
<code>crontab -l</code>	List your cron jobs.
<code>crontab -e</code>	Edit your cron jobs.
<code>crontab -r</code>	Remove all of your cron jobs.

Demo - crontab

Summary

- The cron service runs scheduled jobs
- Use the crontab command to schedule jobs